AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, please replace the first paragraph with:

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This application ~~is related to prior~~ claims benefit to provisional application 60/100,168 filed on September 14, 1998 and is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/447966, filed on Nov. 23, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,627,616, which is a continuation-in-part of application 09/391,260, filed on Sep. 7, 1999, which is a division of application No. 098/975,573, filed on Nov. 21, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,265,387, which is a continuation of application No. 08/571,536, filed on Dec. 13, 1995, now abandoned.

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Applicants hereby submit a marked version of the Replacement Sheet to show the changes made. Please enter Replacement Sheet 1.

[REPLACEMENT SHEET]

A PROCESS FOR DELIVERING NUCLEIC ACIDS TO CARDIAC TISSUE

This application ~~is related to prior~~ claims benefit to provisional application 60/100,168 filed on September 14, 1998 and is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/447966, filed on Nov. 23, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,627,616, which is a continuation-in-part of application 09/391,260, filed on Sep. 7, 1999, which is a division of application No. 098/975,573, filed on Nov. 21, 1997, now Pat. No. 6,265,387, which is a continuation of application No. 08/571,536, filed on Dec. 13, 1995, now abandoned.

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

This invention was made with United States government support from NIH Grant Number DK49117. The United States has certain rights in this invention.

Field of the Invention

The invention generally relates to techniques for delivering nucleic acids to a heart for purposes of gene therapy. More particularly, the invention involves vascular delivery of DNA and RNA to a heart for gene expression or gene regulation.

Background

Gene therapy is an approach to treating diseases based on the expression of genes toward a therapeutic goal. Gene therapy has been discussed in the context of treating diseases although it also has a potential for disease prevention.

A basic challenge in gene therapy is to develop approaches for delivering genetic material to the appropriate cells of a patient in a way that is specific, efficient and safe. This problem of "drug delivery," where the gene is a drug, is particularly challenging. If genes are appropriately delivered they can potentially lead to a cure. A primary focus of gene therapy is based on strategies for delivering genes.